

Homeless Children & Youth

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No Child Left Behind: Homeless Children and Youth Program

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- ✓ Provide homeless children equal access to the same free public education that is provided to other children

Who is Considered Homeless?

Identifying Homeless Children & Youth

Enrollment Form Questions:

- ✓ Are you currently residing in a hotel, motel, car, or at a campsite because your home has been damaged or because of economic reasons?
- ✓ Are you sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason? Explain if it is a similar reason.
- ✓ Are you currently residing in a shelter?
- ✓ Are you currently living in a temporary housing arrangement due to economic hardship?

Enrollment

- The McKinney-Vento Act states that homeless children must be enrolled immediately in public school, even when:
 - ✓ School or immunization records are unavailable at the time of enrollment.
 - ✓ Proof of residency is not available
- Students may stay in their school of origin, if feasible.

Enrollment

- Public notice of educational rights of homeless children and youth must be posted in every public school and in appropriate places throughout the community.
- Unaccompanied youth must be provided educational access through the support of the local homeless education liaison.

Schools can require:

- Birth Certificate (in a timely manner)-state/federal
- Completed enrollment form (upon enrollment)-federal
- Verification of Homeless Status or Proof of Residency-federal

Verification of Homeless Status or Proof of residency...this can be verified by the homeless coordinator, shelter personnel, social worker, case manager, etc.

If a homeless child goes to a school district to enroll and the district does not feel they are homeless, the district can enroll the child using a Proof of Residency Waiver. This will get the child in school but will also allow the school district 45 days to investigate the situation.

Federal Requirements to Enroll a Homeless Child or Youth

- School enrollment form
- Parent/guardian contact information...if available

School of Best Interest

- Once a child has been identified as homeless, residency requirements do not apply
 - The school of origin
 - The school of residency

School's Homeless Coordinator

- Each district in Missouri has a homeless coordinator
- They are a link between the family, school, and service providers

LEA

“Local Educational Agency”

- If the school of best interest and the current residence are in different districts, the homeless coordinators of the two districts should work together to facilitate the placement

Policies

- Enrollment identification
- Needs assessment
- Placement
- Services
- Records transfer
- District homeless coordinator
- Resolution of grievances

All are required.

Applies to all districts, whether or not homeless students are identified.

Transportation

- School where the homeless child is sleeping and the school district where the child is attending need to work together to arrange transportation
- Reimbursement for transportation expenses is available to public school districts when the district is not already receiving a homeless grant from DESE

Only public school districts can apply for transportation reimbursement

Services

- Homeless Students automatically qualify for free and reduced lunch. They do not need to provide a Social Security Number to qualify.
- A child or youth who is homeless and is attending any school in the district is eligible for Title I services.

Other Resources

- DESE's Website:
 - <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/discretionarygrants/homeless/index.html>
- National Center for Homeless Education at Serve (NCHE)
 - <http://www.serve.org/nche>
 - 800-308-2145

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English Language Learning

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No Child Left Behind: Title III

Language Instruction for LEP and Immigrant Students

- ✓ Provide high-quality, language instruction educational programs that increases English proficiency and core subject achievement.

Policies

- Student identification
- Language assessment
- District ell coordinator

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION

- The district has adopted and uses a procedure to survey the enrolled student body and identify students whose first language, or home language, or both, is other than English. A question(s) on the student enrollment form or school wide survey would be examples of compliant procedures.
- *Do you use a language other than English?*
- *Is a language other than English used at home?*

LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT

- The district appropriately identifies what needs, if any, exist among screened students for language support services enabling them to achieve the challenging performance standards set for all students. The assessment may be district developed or commercially purchased. The assessment must use appropriate measure(s) to assess students' abilities in the reading, writing, listening, and speaking modalities.

LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT

- **MAC II**

- statewide assessment tool
- Administered in the Spring of the year
- testing the yearly English language proficiency progress of **all** LEP students.
- new LEP students take the MAC II at the session following their enrollment in a Missouri school.

LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT

- A LEA must also select a regular testing tool for **placement** and **exiting** LEP students.
- This assessment is administered in the Fall of the year.
- Examples of assessments used by districts can be found in the *Educating Linguistically Diverse Students* book on our website

DISTRICT ELL COORDINATOR

- Each district in Missouri has a ELL coordinator
- They are a link between the family, school, and service providers

Services

- School districts are responsible for providing a language instruction educational program that increases the English proficiency and academic achievement of LEP students. This is true whether the districts receive funds from the state or federal level. The expectation is to hold ELL students to the State academic content and academic achievement standards established for all children.

ELL Teachers

- When a LEA enrolls 20 or more LEP students they **must** have an ESOL endorsed educator providing ELL instruction.
- If a LEA enrolls one to 20 LEP students, differentiated instruction **must** be provided based upon the needs of the LEP students and the resources of the LEA.
- It is ***illegal*** to put a bilingual/ESOL “aide” or a paraprofessional in charge of a classroom that is **not under** the supervision of a **certified** teacher.

Parent Notification

- The LEA must have a written statement to notify parents of ELL students within 30 days from the start of school that notifies the parents that their child is being placed in an English language program.
- Parents have the right to **choose** among instruction programs **if** more than one type of program is offered.

LEP Census

- LEP census is conducted during mid-October to mid-November through DESE's website each year.
- Conducting the LEP Census is a required activity of Title III of the NCLB Act of 2001.
- Allocation of funds to districts under Title III is based on the LEP census.
- The data reported in the census is from the prior completed school year.

Resources

- **Brochures**

- *English Language Learners, A Guide For Districts*
- *Ideal Components Of An ELL Policy Or Plan*
- *English Language Learners For Low Incidence Schools*
- *Serving Undocumented ELL*

- **DESE Web Site**

- <http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/fedprog/discretionarygrants/>

English Language Learning

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Federal Discretionary Grants

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